

Sinclair Broadcasting's wrongheaded decision to force their stations to broadcast an anti-Kerry documentary titled "Stolen Honor" days before the election provides clear evidence of the civic danger that arises from mass media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves – my space and your space – free of charge. Granted this privilege, Sinclair is obligated by law to serve the public interest – all interests. When a large media company, such as Sinclair, controls the airwaves in numerous regions across the nation, then abuses this privilege by exploiting their control of public airwaves to authoritatively propagandize a one-sided political view, they fail in their obligation to serve all interests.

From companies like Sinclair, the public witnesses the economic interests of a few and not the practice of a democratic press. Rather than media programming produced at a distant news set, it is more important that real individuals from our own communities exercise the privilege of free access to the public airwaves. With local ownership and control of media programming, the public benefits from substantive communication that serves the community and not the media company.

Sinclair's actions demonstrate the public's need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Sinclair's abuse indicates why the license renewal process must involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you for your consideration and your service to the individuals of America.

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